GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5423
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
DOMESTIC INTERNET EXCHANGES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Domestic Internet Exchanges established/being established in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase their speed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (c): Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) is already serving as internet exchange point for smooth flow of internet traffic in country. VSNL has set up robust domestic backbone by employing Synchronous Transport Module (STM-1) transmission links (155 Mbps) to inter link its various Gateways at New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Ernakulam etc. VSNL is continuously gearing itself to upgrade its domestic backbone to improve the speed of internet exchange in India. To achieve this objective, VSNL has increased its total domestic backbone capacity/speed from 209.1 Mbps as of 31st March, 2000 to 1055.1 Mbps as of 31st March, 2001.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) is in process of establishing National Internet Backbone (NIB) for carriage of Internet traffic. It aims at providing easy interconnect point to the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) besides establishing Points of Presence (POPs) for BSNL as an Internet Service Provider. The National Internet Backbone (NIB) can serve as an Internet Exchange Point for capacity of 8 Mbps and will go up to 155 Mbps progressively. Initially 34 Mbps connectivity has been provided to the International Gateways at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Bangalore & Pune.

As per Internet Service Providers Association of India, there is an ongoing programme to develop and promote neutral facilities for internet exchange wherein various ISPs can inter-connect with one another depending on mutual understanding, thus, ensuring the best routing of domestic traffic and save on precious international bandwidth.